



alpine



biome

A biome located above the tree line that is characterized by extreme cold weather conditions. Worldwide, alpine biomes are found in high altitude mountain regions.

A group of similar ecosystems, such as tundra or desert that shares the same plant type and climate.



carnivore



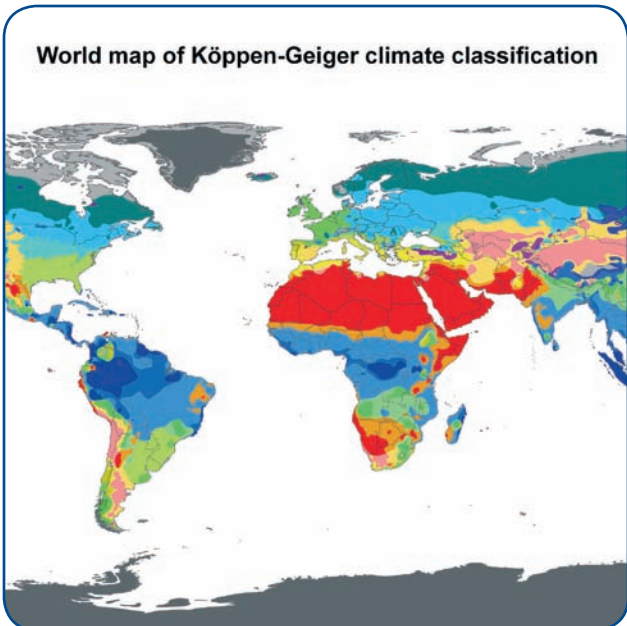
chaparral

An organism that obtains energy and matter by eating other animals.

A biome containing shrubland plant communities; can be found in many parts of the world, including California; contains small evergreen trees and shrubs that are drought-resistant.



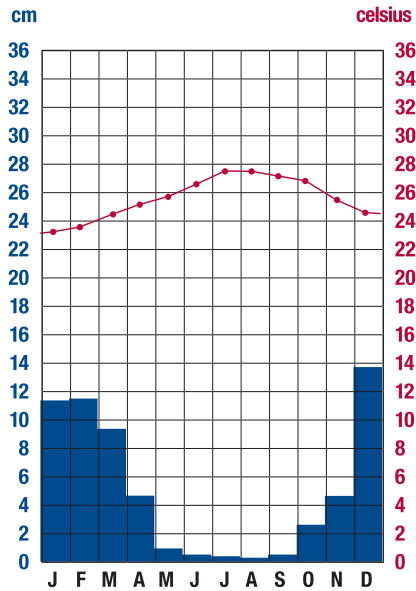
characteristic



climate

A quality that makes an individual or group different from others.

The weather in an area averaged over a long period of time.



climatogram



competition

A graph that shows average temperature and precipitation each month for a given area.

1. The struggle between two or more organisms for limited supplies of food, water, or other resources.
2. The act of competing as rivals.



**deciduous
forest**



decomposer

A biome that is characterized by four distinct seasons and made up of trees that lose their leaves during winter (deciduous trees). Worldwide, deciduous forests are located at the middle latitudes.

Bacteria or fungi that obtain energy and matter by breaking down the remains of dead organisms.



desert



ecological role

A biome that is characterized by low rainfall and made up of plants and small animals that tolerate heat and long periods without water. Worldwide, most deserts are located at low latitudes and can be classified as hot and dry, semiarid, coastal, or cold.

An organism's job or function within an ecosystem.



endemic



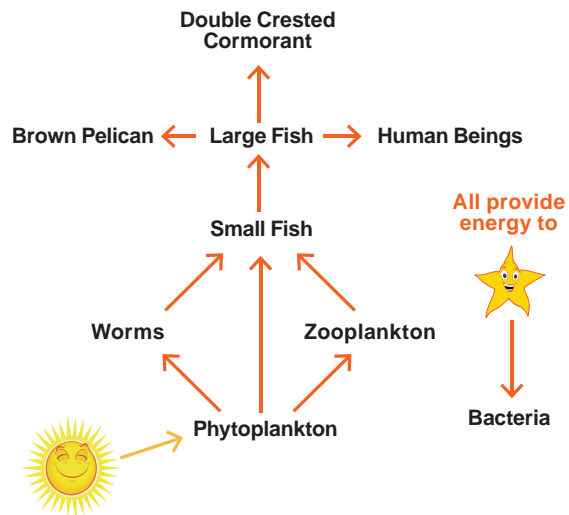
energy

Found only in a specified geographic region and nowhere else.

The capacity to do work or the source of power to do work.



feral



food web

Describing an animal or population of animals that was once domesticated but are now wild.

A set of interacting food chains in an ecosystem.



grassland



herbivore

A biome made up of large areas dominated by short or tall grasses rather than trees or shrubs, such as the prairies of the United States or pampas of South America.

An organism that obtains energy and matter by eating plants or other producers.



**introduced
species**



irrigation

A plant or animal that now occurs in an area outside its natural range as a result of human activity.

The act of supplying water to plants through pipes, ditches, or other means.



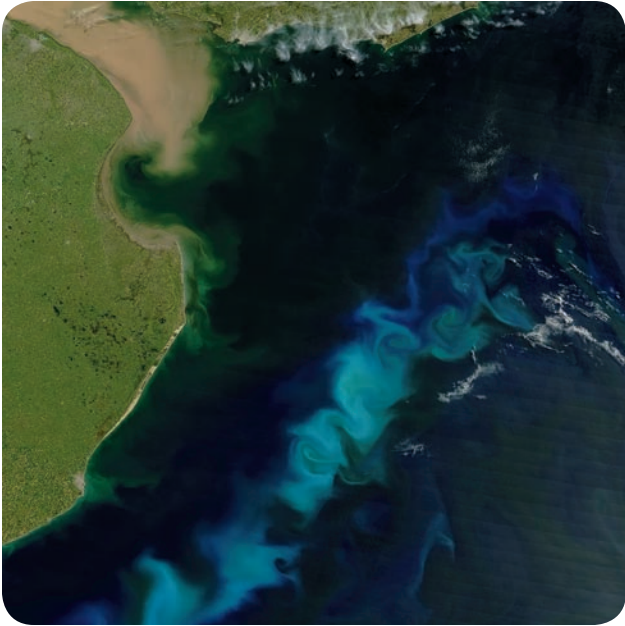
logging



omnivore

The act of cutting trees for lumber.

An organism that obtains energy and matter by eating both plants and animals.



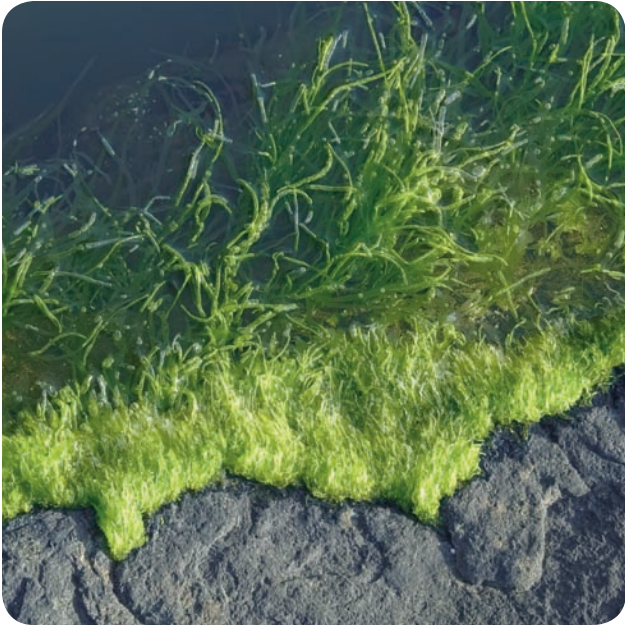
phytoplankton



precipitation

Tiny “plant” plankton that drift with currents in fresh or salt water. Phytoplankton make their own food through photosynthesis.

Water that falls from clouds to Earth as rain, mist, hail, sleet, ice, or snow.



producer



rainforest

An organism (plant or alga) that converts light energy to chemical energy stored in carbohydrates.

A biome that is characterized by lush, diverse plant growth, and high amounts of rainfall. Worldwide, rainforests occur near the equator (tropical rainforests) and along the Pacific Coast (temperate rainforests).



salinity



savanna

The measure of the amount of salts dissolved in water.

A tropical biome of grasslands and scattered trees.



siltation



taiga

The buildup of silt as a result of having grains of soil washed into rivers and streams through erosion or deposited back on land during flooding.

A coniferous forest biome that is characterized by long, cold, and dry winters and short, moist summers. Taiga is also called a boreal forest. Worldwide, it is found mainly in Russia and Canada.



**transfer
of matter**



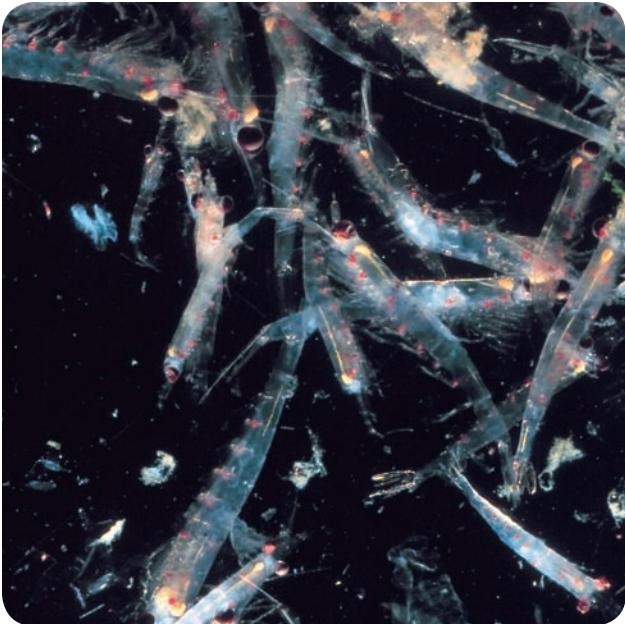
tundra/polar

The movement of nutrients from one organism to another through a food chain.

Biomes made up of treeless plains, characterized by extremely low temperatures and little precipitation. The tundra/polar biomes are found near the North and South Poles.



vegetation



zooplankton

The plant life found in an area or region.

Animal plankton that drift with currents in fresh or salt water.